DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) Yes,

(*b*) No.

(*c*) the answer to the first part is in the affirmative; the 2nd part of the question does not arise in view of the answer to the first part.

MR. THEROOR S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI: May I know from the Surgeon-General whethes he is aware that practical training before the grant of promotions does not serve any useful purpose?

DR. S. JOHN: I do not think so.

Hospital Nurses.

274. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the reason why a condition is imposed on hospital nurses not to marry during the couse of their service?

DR. S. JOHN: It is not in the best interest of hospitals or other Nursing Services to employ young married women with family responsibilities.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has the Surgeon-General received any petition from the nurses with regard to the change of this rule?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has the Government considered the petition?

DR. S. JOHN: Yes, Sir, Government were kind enough to reduce the number of years from 9 to 7 for marriage.

Admission to Medical College.

275. *MR. V. MADHAVAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many applications were received this year by Government for selection of candidates for admission to the Medical Courses in the College at Madras and Calcutta;

(*b*) how many applications were received from candidates belonging to the Ezhava community; and

(*c*) how many Ezhava applicants were selected;

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) 76.

(*b*) 6.

(*c*) None.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Part (*c*) of the question is "How many Ezhava applicants were selected" and the answer is "None". May I know the reason for not taking any Ezhava student?

DR. S. JOHN: There is no reason at all. It all depends upon so many things. It is not only the marks that count for the selection of a candidate. A man might have passed as first in the Presidency. But he must have general appearance, efficiency and pluck. All these things are necessary for a candidate being selected.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know how these things are determined?

DR. S. JOHN: It is as a result of the interview and from the certificates the Surgeon-General used to get from the Heads of educational institutions.

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